

Business Briefs

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Village of Burr Ridge Economic Development Committee

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Mission Statement

To act as a recommending body to advise the Village Board and Staff on ways to develop a positive business climate, consistent with the existing residential character of the community, which will encourage the retention of existing businesses and promote and assist in the growth and development of new businesses. The BREDC will seek to build relationships among the Village Board, Staff, commercial developers, various associations of commerce and industry and Burr Ridge businesses that encourages an exchange of information, the promotion of the Village as a viable location for new investment and the development of policies which will provide the impetus for the retention/expansion of the local tax base and employment opportunities.

**For more information
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www.burr-ridge.gov

Annual Business Breakfast Spotlights Small Business Administration Programs

Over 50 members of the business community attended the 9th Annual Business Breakfast in October. Gary Peele, Bank Relations Manager of the Small Business Administration (SBA) provided the keynote address. Mr. Peele presented an overview of the SBA's small business development and assistance programs, including financial assistance, contracting, counseling, bonding and advocating on behalf of small businesses.

According to Mr. Peele, the SBA currently refers small business people to lending partners, banks and development companies in lieu of direct loan-making. The SBA will guarantee loans made through those institutions, thereby reducing the bank's risk. Various contracting services and programs are administered by the SBA such as the Size Determination Program, which identifies which businesses can be classified as "Small", as well as a program that helps small businesses obtain government contracts. Not as well known, Mr. Peele stated, is the SBA's involvement in the construction industry. The Surety Bond Guarantee Program provides small contractors with contracting opportunities they might not otherwise pursue. Small businesses can count on the SBA to be an advocate for views, concerns and interests through the Office of Advocacy and an ombudsman in times of conflict. The National Ombudsman's Office assists small businesses in instances of excessive Federal regulatory enforcement actions (i.e., repetitive audits/investigations, excessive fines, penalties, threats, retaliation, etc.) .

General information on any of the SBA's programs can be obtained by calling the Chicago office at (312) 353-4528 or visit their website at www.sba.gov and select IL as the local office.

Veterans Memorial Fundraising Continues

Fundraising for the Burr Ridge Veterans Memorial is underway. The Memorial's design, approved last year, will honor all five branches of the military. With construction costs projected at \$270,000, the Committee needs support from the community. A tax deductible donation program has been established as well as a Brick Paver Program that commemorates the Veterans for whom the Memorial is being built. Each brick costs \$100 and will feature the Veteran's Name, Unit and/or Branch of Service as well as Dates of Service. The Memorial will be located in Purdie McCullough Park, located at County Line and Plainfield Roads, thanks to a generous land donation from the Burr Ridge Park District. For more information on how and where to donate time, labor, materials or funds, visit www.burr-ridge.gov, stop by the Police Department or contact Corporal Timothy Vaclav at 323-8181, ext. 309.



Survey Says! 2003 Business Survey Results

Police Department services, courtesy of the Village Hall staff and the Burr Ridge Business Briefs ranked highest among Village services, according to this year's Business Survey. Conducted biannually since 1995, this was the Village's fifth attempt to gauge the opinions of the business community. The Village also uses this information to get a snapshot of the needs and future plans of these very valuable members of the community. Survey respondents overwhelmingly listed "location" as one of the biggest advantages to having a business in Burr Ridge. Our proximity to highways, airports, and downtown Chicago provide businesses with a central location for customers and employees in a reputable, well-kept community. On the other hand, respondents listed Cook County taxes as one of the disadvantages of being in Burr Ridge. Respondents also gave only average ratings to Village services such as the building permit process and fees, utility connection fees, traffic and property taxes.

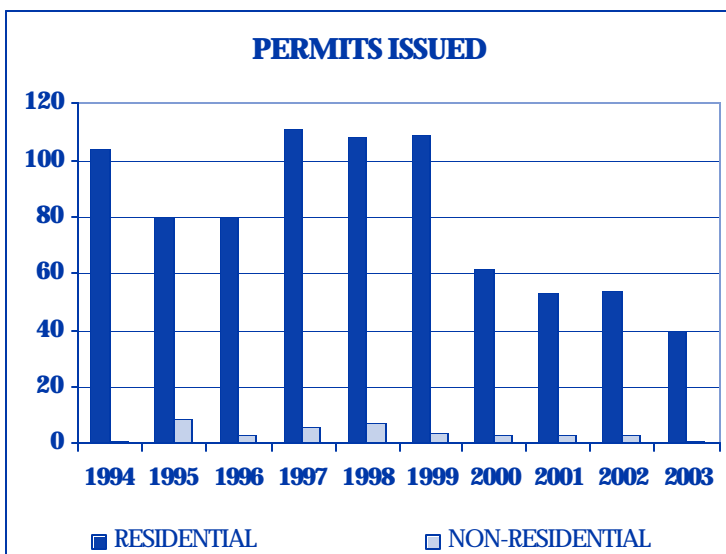
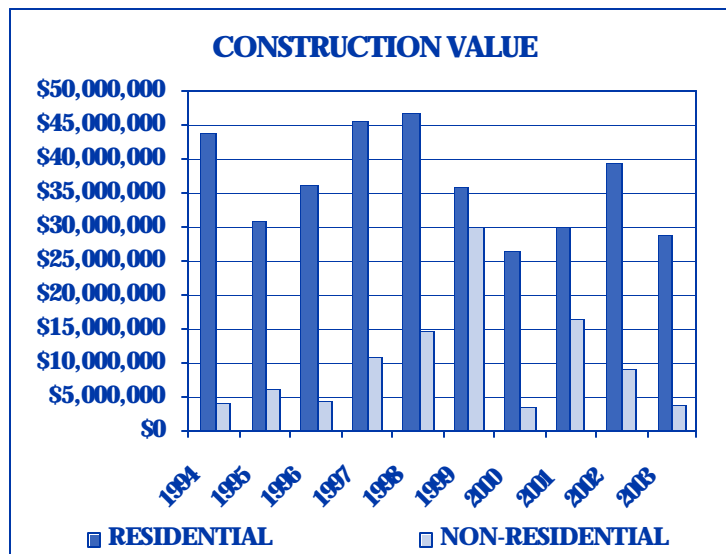
Who responded to this survey? A majority of respondents can be described as businesses that generate between \$1.1 and 5 million in revenue annually in a manufacturing/warehouse/distribution environment. The majority employs 1 to 25 full time workers and 0 to 25 part time workers, has been located in the Village for over 15 years and has plans to increase their staff in the near future.

County Line Road Construction Project Going out to Bid

Long-overdue for improvement, construction on County Line Road has been scheduled for 2004. Since Cook County maintains the road, the Village does not have the authority to initiate or oversee the project. Village staff was informed that, due to the County Building fire, the Cook County Highway Department has delayed the bid letting for the project. Originally set for December 2003, the project will go out to bid in early March instead. This has raised concerns that the project may not begin in 2004 or may begin too late in the year to be completed in one year. Staff will continue to monitor this situation and provide updates when available. When construction begins, Cook County has indicated that it will occur in two phases: from 80th to 83rd Street first, followed by 83rd to 91st Street. They anticipate that traffic will be limited to one lane traveling northbound only.

Building Permits Down in 2003

The number of permits issued and construction value declined in 2003. 40 new single-family residential permits were issued with a total construction value of over \$39 million. Only 1 new non-residential permit was issued with a construction value of over \$9 million. The charts below summarize activity since 1994.



Development Proceeds in Corporate Park

Construction has resumed on the hotel project in the Burr Ridge Corporate Park with a July opening date anticipated. Construction is also in progress on a 44,058 square foot office building that will house the Laborer's District Council. Incentive agreements provided by the Village and School District 204 helped kick-start both projects in late fall and it is hoped that they will attract future development in this area.

Study Focuses on Corporate Park Traffic

Traffic coming in and out of the Corporate Park through residential areas has increased, according to a study recently conducted by Parsons Transportation Group. Cut through traffic in the Chasemoor neighborhood and 72nd Street/Pleasantdale area coming from the Corporate Park has residents concerned about the speed of traffic near their homes. The posted speed limit in those areas is 25 MPH but in 2003, the Burr Ridge Police Department issued 166 traffic tickets for speeding just along 72nd Street.

According to a recent survey, residents said they would like to see the Village take additional steps to slow traffic. In a series of Street Policy Committee Meetings, Village staff and officials have met with residents in the affected areas to gain consensus about what actions might be taken. Currently under consideration are speed reduction tools such as speed humps and traffic circles that reduce lane width and force drivers to slow down. If approved, this would be included in the 2004 Road Program.

Wanted! Volunteers for Community Events

Five Seasons Country Club will be hosting their first Family Fitness Festival on Sunday, June 19th. The event features a 5K Race and one-mile Fun Run and will benefit one local child from the Make a Wish Foundation. Anyone interested in volunteering time or resources should contact Officer Zuccherro at 654-8181, ext 322.

The Burr Ridge Police Department will host its Second Annual Open House on Saturday, September 11th. The date is tentative and any business willing to make a donation is asked to contact Officer Zuccherro at 654-818, ext. 322.

The Annual D.A.R.E. Lock-In will be held Saturday, February 14th for 5th and 6th grade students currently in the D.A.R.E. program. Officers from Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale will be at Hinsdale Central High School from 9:30 PM to 6:30 AM. Volunteers and chaperones are needed. Anyone interested should contact Officer Zuccherro at 654-8181, ext. 322.

Help us with the news

Would you like to see more business news in this column? Give us your news of honors, business expansions, patents, etc. so we can share it as space permits.

Know the Code

Zoning Certificate Required:

If your business is new to Burr Ridge, has relocated to or within the Village, if there are plans to expand the square footage your building occupies, or if the nature of your use of the building is changing, you must first obtain a Zoning Certificate of Occupancy. The process is simple and the one-time fee is \$50. Contact Community Development Director Doug Pollock at 654-8181, extension 120, for an application form or further information.

Parking Lot Expansion:

Parking lot expansion requires a Village building permit. To obtain a permit, present a survey showing both existing and proposed parking, grading, proposed drainage and erosion control with the \$75 application fee. The permit fee is an additional \$200. Generally, open off-street parking spaces must be located in interior side yards and rear yards. Except in Business Districts, parking is not permitted anywhere in front of the building, whether in the front yard, the interior side yard, the side yard adjoining the street or the buildable area in front of the building. For details on the zoning requirements for parking, contact the Community Development Department at 654-8181, extension 123. For details on engineering requirements for a parking lot expansion, contact the Engineering Department at 323-4733.

2004 Road Program Preview

Businesses in and around Hinsdale Industrial Park can expect street improvements as part of the 2004 Road Program. The Village is finalizing the details for this year's plan which will include the resurfacing of Shore Drive and Shore Court. Work will most likely begin in the summer and updates will be available on the Road Construction hotline. Once work begins, call 654-8181, Option 8 or tune in to the Village's Bulletin Board on Cable Channel 6 for more information

King-Bruwaert Hosts Salute to Veterans

King Bruwaert House will host a "Salute to Veterans" program from 10 AM to Noon, Monday, February 16th. The program features several keynote speakers, color guard, musical medleys and more. Call 230-9251 by February 9th to RSVP.

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Attention: President/CEO

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Chamber of Commerce to Host Business Expo



Mark your calendars for March 3rd! You won't want to miss the 7th Annual Willowbrook/Burr Ridge Chamber of Commerce Business Expo. Held at Ashton Place in Willowbrook (75th Street and Clarendon Hills Road) from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM, more than 50 local exhibitors will come together to "highlight some of the most innovative and exciting companies in the area."

Jane Hopson, Expo Committee Chairperson, said that the expo "gives participants an excellent opportunity for business to business and business to community marketing. The expo is open to the public, giving people a chance to learn about the great businesses and many services available to them in the Willowbrook/Burr Ridge area."

"Space is still available," said Hopson "but there has been a tremendous response to this year's expo and many businesses have already reserved booths. The Chamber sees this as a positive sign of economic growth." For more information on how you can attend or participate, visit the Chamber's web site at www.wbbrchamber.org or call (630) 654-0909.

Welcome New Businesses

Join us in welcoming the following new members of the Burr Ridge Business Community: Apria Healthcare; Bowen & Bowen; Burr Ridge Eye Care, Inc.; Community Medical Supply; Country Wide Home Loans; Don Morris Architects, P.C.; Gycor International, Ltd.; International Truck & Engine Corporation; Lifeline Heath Services, Inc.; O.B.A. Midwest, Ltd.; ProSORT Services; RehabTech Supply, Inc. and World Cleaning Services.

Village Continues Welcome Program

To extend a special welcome to new businesses, the Economic Development Committee will continue a special program initiated last year. Each new business will receive a gift certificate for a Burr Ridge restaurant. The certificates can be valued at up to \$25 to any of the following restaurants: Bobak's Café, Moondance Diner, Gia Mia Restaurant, Dunkin Donuts, Tasso's Porterhouse and Terra Restaurant (inside the Ramada Inn).



Visit the Village's
web site at
www.burr-ridge.gov